

II. Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus comprising;
one or a plurality of carriers fixed or able to be fixed with chemical substances such as ligands;
a transferable carrier housing section ~~which is provided with a fluid inlet/outlet and which accommodates said carrier~~ comprising:
 a large diameter section which accommodates said carrier, and
 a small diameter section connected to the large diameter section, the small diameter section comprising a tip, a fluid inlet/outlet at the tip, and a smaller diameter;
 a plurality of containers provided outside of said transferable carrier housing section;
 a drawing/discharging section configured to draw a fluid through said inlet/outlet and into said transferable carrier housing section, and then discharge the fluid out of said transferable carrier housing section through said inlet/outlet; and
 a transferring section which transfers said transferable carrier housing section including said inlet/outlet relatively with respect to the containers provided outside, the transfer of said transferable carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the large diameter section and the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the tip and the inlet/outlet relatively with respect to the containers,
 wherein said carrier is formed in a size or a shape not allowing said carrier to pass through said inlet/outlet, and in a state of holding said carrier in said housing section, by self-weight of said carrier, frictional force between said carrier and the inner wall of said housing section, or remote force from outside with respect to said carrier, a fluid is drawn and discharged,
 wherein said carrier housing section further comprises an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through, and said drawing/discharging section is provided with a nozzle which detachably connects with said opening, and said carrier is formed in a size capable of passing through said opening but not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet,

and

wherein the smaller diameter of the small diameter section of said transferable carrier housing section enables insertion of the smaller diameter section into each of the containers, the insertion of the smaller diameter section into each of the containers including the insertion of the tip and the inlet/outlet into each of the containers.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said carrier is; a particle having a larger diameter than said inlet/outlet, a block member having a shape not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet, a sheet member, a wire like member formed by bending in a predetermined size.

5. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said plurality of carriers are a plurality of kinds.

6. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier is provided with an adhesion prevention section such as a projection, a ditch, a corrugated surface, for keeping said carrier from being adhered to the inner wall of said carrier housing section.

7. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier housing section is provided with an adhesion prevention section such as a projection, a ditch, a corrugated surface, for keeping from being adhered to said carrier.

8. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier is; a member having through holes, a permeable membrane member, a porous member, or a mesh member, which is held at a predetermined position in said carrier housing section so as to divide and partition said carrier housing section

into upper and lower spaces, and allow a fluid to pass therethrough.

9. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier is held at the bottom of said carrier housing section, which is a predetermined position, by self-weight, and carrier holding sections such as projections, ditches, corrugated surfaces are provided at the bottom so as to keep said carrier from blocking passage of said fluid.

10. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier housing section is formed from a translucent member, and a measuring apparatus which measures luminescence on said carrier is provided outside of said carrier housing section.

11. (previously presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein in said carrier housing section, a side face provided with said measuring apparatus is formed in a plane.

12. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier contains a magnetic substance and said carrier is held in a predetermined position of said carrier housing section due to a magnetic field exerted from outside of said carrier housing section.

13. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to ~~any one of claims 1 and 2~~ claim 1, wherein said carrier is a glass or its surface is coated with a glass.

14. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing method comprising;
providing one or a plurality of carriers fixed or able to be fixed with chemical substances such as ligands;

accommodating said carrier in a large diameter section of a housing section, the housing section further comprising a small diameter section connected to the large diameter section, the small diameter section comprising a tip, a fluid inlet/outlet at the tip, and a smaller diameter;
providing a plurality of external containers outside of the housing section;

a drawing/contacting step for, with respect to ~~[[a]]~~ the housing section which ~~accommodates one or a plurality of carriers fixed or able to be fixed with chemical substances such as ligands and has an inlet/outlet which enables a fluid to pass through but does not enable said carriers to pass through,~~ drawing fluid through said inlet/outlet from the external containers by a drawing/discharging section, to contact said carriers which are held in said carrier housing section by self-weight of said carrier, frictional force with the inner wall of said carrier housing section, or remote force from outside with respect to said carrier, with the drawn fluid; and

a discharging step for discharging only said fluid through said inlet/outlet by said drawing/discharging section, in a state where said carrier is accommodated in said carrier housing section,

a transferring step for transferring said carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of said carrier housing section relatively with respect to the containers outside including the transfer of the large diameter section and the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers, the transfer of the small diameter section relatively with respect to the containers including the transfer of the tip and the inlet/outlet relatively with respect to the containers; and

an inserting step for inserting the inlet/outlet into each of the containers, wherein the smaller diameter of the small diameter section of the housing section enables the insertion of the inlet/outlet into each of the containers;

wherein said carrier housing section further comprises an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through, and said drawing/discharging section is provided with a nozzle which detachably connects with said opening, and said carrier is formed in a size capable of passing through said opening but not capable of passing through said inlet/outlet.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented) A carrier housing/processing method according to claim 14, further comprising repeatedly drawing and discharging the fluid with respect to said carrier housing section.

17. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing method according to any one of claim 14 ~~through and~~ claim 16, further comprising an accommodating step for accommodating said carrier in said carrier housing section from an opening having a size enabling said carrier to pass through.

18. (currently amended) A carrier housing/processing method according to any one of ~~claim 14 through claim 17~~ claim 14, claim 16 and claim 17, further comprising a removing step for removing said carrier from said carrier housing section through an opening having a size enabling said carrier provided in said carrier housing section to pass through.

19. (previously presented) A carrier housing/processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the carrier housing section comprises a large diameter section;
wherein the apparatus further comprises a filter provided in the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, the filter dividing the large diameter section to thereby define upper and lower spaces of the large diameter section, the lower space being fluidicly coupled to the inlet/outlet;
wherein the carrier is disposed in the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;
wherein the drawing/discharging section is configured to draw the fluid through the inlet/outlet and into the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, and then discharge the fluid out of the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section through the inlet/outlet; and
wherein the filter prevents the fluid drawn into the lower space from invading the upper space.

20. (previously presented) A carrier housing/processing method according to claim 14, wherein the carrier housing section comprises a large diameter section;
wherein the method further comprises providing a filter in the large diameter section of the carrier housing section, the filter dividing the large diameter section to thereby define upper and lower spaces of the large diameter section, the lower space being fluidicly coupled to the inlet/outlet;

wherein the carrier is disposed in the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;

wherein the drawing/contacting step further comprises drawing the fluid through the inlet/outlet and into the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section;

wherein the discharging step comprises discharging the fluid out of the lower space of the large diameter section of the carrier housing section through the inlet/outlet; and

wherein the method further comprises preventing the fluid drawn into the lower space from invading the upper space using the filter.